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# M E S S I A H :

A N

## O R A T O R I O.

As it is Performed at the

THEATRE-ROYAL in COVENT-GARDEN.

SET TO MUSIC BY

MR. H A N D E L.

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### M A J O R A C A N A M U S.

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And without Controversy, great is the Mystery of Godliness ; God was  
manifested in the Flesh, justified by the Spirit, seen of Angels, preached  
among the Gentiles, believed on in the World, received up into Glory.  
In whom are hid all the Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge.

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L O N D O N :

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M DCC LXVII.

M A T H E M

PROBLEM

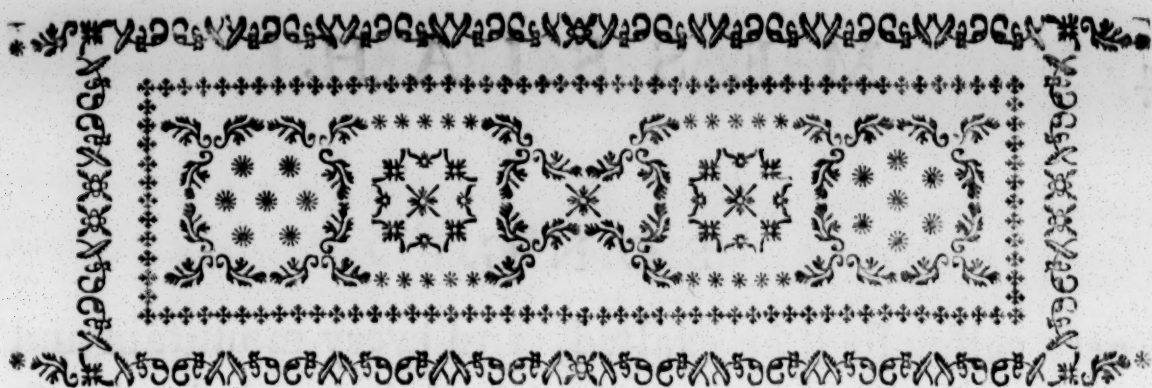
THEORY

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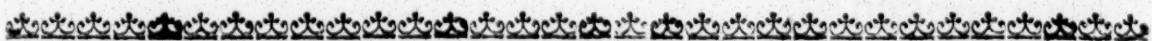
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# M E S S I A H.



## P A R T I.

RECITATIVE, ACCOMPANIED.

COMFORT ye, comfort ye, my people, faith  
your God; speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem;  
and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished,  
that her iniquity is pardoned.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, prepare  
ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert  
a highway for our God.

A 2

S O N G.

## S O N G.

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low, the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

## C H O R U S.

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

## R E C I T. A C C O M P A N I E D.

Thus saith the Lord of Hosts: Yet once a little while and I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land, and I will shake all nations, and the Desire of all Nations shall come; the Lord whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple; even the Messenger of the Covenant, whom ye delight in, behold he shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts.

## R E C I T A T I V E.

But who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he appeareth?

For he is like a refiner's fire.

C H O-

C H O R U S.

And he shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

R E C I T A T I V E.

Behold a Virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call his name EMMANUEL, GOD WITH US.

S O N G   A N D   C H O R U S.

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain; O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God.

Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

R E C I T.   A C C O M P A N I E D.

For behold darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee, and the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

SONG.

## S O N G.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

## C H O R U S.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, his name shall be called, Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

## R E C I T A T I V E.

There were shepherds, abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

## R E C I T. A C C O M P A N I E D.

And lo, an angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were fore afraid:

## R E C I T A T I V E.

And the angel saith unto them, Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall

# M E S S I A H.

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shall be to all people: for unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

## RECIT. ACCOMPANIED.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying,

## C H O R U S.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth,  
good will towards men.

## S O N G.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion, shout, O daughter of Jerufalem, behold thy King cometh unto thee.

He is the righteous Saviour, and he shall speak peace unto the heathen. [Da capo.

## RECITATIVE.

Then shall the eyes of the blind be open'd, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.

I

SONG.

## SONG.

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: and he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Come unto him, all ye that labour, and are heavy laden, and he will give you rest.

Take his yoke upon you, and learn of him, for he is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

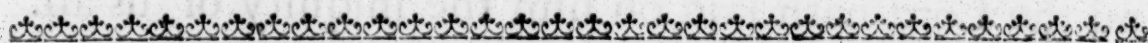
## CHORUS.

His yoke is easy and his burden is light.

PART



# M E S S I A H.



## P A R T II.

### C H O R U S.

**B**EHOLD the Lamb of God that taketh away the  
fins of the world.

### S O N G.

He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sor-  
rows, and acquainted with grief. He gave his back  
to the smiters, and his cheeks to them that plucked  
off the hair; he hid not his face from shame and  
spitting. [Da Capo.

### C H O R U S.

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carry'd our sor-  
rows: he was wounded for our transgressions, he  
was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of  
our peace was upon him.

And with his stripes we are healed.

B

C H O-

## C H O R U S.

All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned  
every one to his own way.

And the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

## R E C I T. A C C O M P A N I E D.

All they that see him laugh him to scorn; they shoot  
out their lips, and shake their heads, saying,

## C H O R U S.

He trusted in God that he would deliver him: let him  
deliver him if he delight in him.

## R E C I T. A C C O M P A N I E D.

Thy rebuke hath broken his heart, he is full of heaviness: he looked for some to have pity on him, but there was no man, neither found he any to comfort him.

## S O N G.

Behold and see if there be any sorrow like unto his sorrow.

## R E C I T. A C C O M P A N I E D.

He was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgression of thy people was he stricken.

SONG.

# M E S S I A H.

II

## S O N G.

But thou didst not leave his soul in hell, nor didst  
thou suffer thy Holy One to see corruption.

## S E M I - C H O R U S.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up ye ever-  
lasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in.

## S E M I - C H O R U S.

Who is this King of Glory?

## S E M I - C H O R U S.

The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

## S E M I - C H O R U S.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up ye ever-  
lasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in.

## S E M I - C H O R U S.

Who is this King of Glory?

## S E M I - C H O R U S.

The Lord of Hosts: he is the King of Glory.

## C H O R U S.

The Lord of Hosts: he is the King of Glory.

RECIT.

## R E C I T A T I V E.

Unto which of the angels said he at any time,  
Thou art my son, this day have I begotten thee.

## C H O R U S.

Let all the angels of God worship him.

## R E C I T A T I V E.

Thou art gone up on high, thou has led captivity  
captive, and received gifts for men, yea even for  
thine enemies, that the Lord God might dwell  
among them.

## C H O R U S.

The Lord gave the word, great was the company of  
the preachers.

## S O N G.

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the  
gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good  
Things.

## C H O R U S.

Their sound is gone out into all lands, and their words  
unto the ends of the world.

## S O N G.

Why do the nations so furiously rage together, and  
why do the people imagine a vain thing?

## M E S S I A H.

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The Kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against his anointed.

### C H O R U S.

Let us break their bonds afunder, and cast away their yokes from us.

### R E C I T A T I V E.

He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh them to scorn;  
the Lord shall have them in derision.

### S O N G.

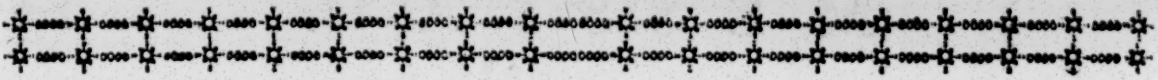
Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron, thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

### C H O R U S.

Hallelujah, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.  
The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom  
of our Lord and of his Christ; and he shall reign,  
for ever and ever,

King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah.

P A R T



# M E S S I A H.



## P A R T III.

### S O N G.

**I** KNOW that my Redeemer liveth, and that he  
shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and  
though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh  
shall I see God. For now is Christ risen from the  
dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.

### C H O R U S.

Since by man came death,  
By man came also the resurrection of the dead;  
For as in Adam all die,  
Even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

T. S.

R E C I T -

RECIT. ACCOMPANIED.

Behold I tell you a mystery: we shall not all sleep,  
but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the  
twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

S O N G.

The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised  
incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this  
corruption must put on incorruption, and this mor-  
tal must put on immortality. [Da Capo.

RECITATIVE.

Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is writ-  
ten, Death is swallowed up in victory.

D U E T.

O death, where is thy sting?  
O grave, where is thy victory?  
{ The sting of death is sin,  
{ And the strength of sin is the law

C H O R U S.

But thanks be to God who giveth us the victory,  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

## S O N G.

If God be for us, who can be against us? who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth, who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather that is risen again, who is at the right hand of God, who maketh intercession for us.

## C H O R U S.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by his blood, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

Blessing and honour, glory and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever. Amen.



F I N I S.

